PRINCESS COMICS
氷果
Yuu Higuri
カンタレラ
Cantarella
1

PRINCESS COMICS

プリンセス・コミックス

Yuu Higuri

I'm very happy to finally be able to draw Cesare, I've always wanted to! Oh, isn't it great to be able to draw a real person so fancifully?

-Higuri

Yuu Higuri's Works

■ Bonita Comics

TENSHI NO HITSUGI (Ave Maria)

■ Bonita Comics

FLOWER

■ Bonita Comics Special

LOST ANGEL

PRINCESS COMICS

カンタレラ

Cantarella

1

Yuu Higuri

氷栗優

［プリンセスGOLD掲載］

Cantarella 1

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CREDITS

scanned by Ria & Ray
translated by Mitsuki
edited by Kalendel

STORM IN HEAVEN

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カンタレラ

Cantarella

THE DUST OF WHITE BONES MIXES WITH RED WINE AND SHINES LIKE BLOOD.

YOU'RE A SERAPH OF DEATH LEADING EVERYONE TOWARD SWEET LUNACY.

DRINK UP THE OFFERING CUP.

A BEAUTIFUL POISON.

-SFX: BAM-

Rome, Year 1475

-SFX: WHOOSH

...

N... NO...

BAM

BAM

H...

HELP ME...

SFX: BOOM

OH!

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED, CARDINAL RODERIGO!

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO NAKEENE!?

TAKE HIM AWAY.
HE'S ALREADY BEEN BREAST-FED, HASN'T HE?
AGAINST ALL ODDS, THE BABY AND HIS MOTHER ARE DOING WELL. GOD MUST BE LOOKING OVER THEM...
IT'S A CUTE BABY, DON'T YOU AGREE? IT'S A BOY.
HE WAS BORN PREMATURELY BECAUSE HIS MOTHER WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.
I'LL LEAVE THEN.
AH, YES.

BOOM!

SOMEONE MANIPULATED ME.

THAT LIGHTNING WAS MEANT FOR ME.

BACK THEN,

A DISMAL VOICE RESOUNDED INSIDE MY HEAD....

"THE BARGAIN IS SEALED."

WHO ...

WHO DID YOU SELL MY BOY TO?

YOU'RE BESIDE YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU WERE HIT BY LIGHTNING. YOU'RE IMAGINING DEMONS.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD A DEMON MAKE CONTACT WITH ME, A SERVANT OF GOD?

YOUR OWN SON!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GET IN RETURN FOR HIM!?

DON'T SPEAK SUCH NONSENSE!

RETURN MY PRECIOUS BOY!

RETURN HIM...

GIVE HIM BACK ...

PLEASE FORGIVE ME...

THERE IS NO OTHER WAY...

SFX: CRACKLE

SFX: CRACKLE

WH-AT!?

AHH!

WHAT HAS ... DEAR GOD...!

Waahhh...

Wahh...

cuddle

OH!

WHAT A CUTE BABY!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TURN TO, VANOZZA.

I WAS HOPING YOU'D FEEL BAD FOR THIS BABY, A MOTHER-LESS CHILD.

WHAT'S HIS NAME?

CE-SARE.

CESARE BORGIA.

OH!

YOU'RE LIKE THE HOLY MOTHER, VANOZZA CATTANEI!

IT ISN'T A PROBLEM. DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, RODERIGO.

I'LL LOOK AFTER HIM.

DESPITE BEING A SERVANT OF GOD,

HE GOES TOO FAR.

AH, YOU MEAN CARDINAL RODE-RIGO?

HIS SCANDALS WITH WOMEN ARE RENOWNED.

swish

OH DEAR ...

STAY WITH ME FROM NOW ON, CESARE.

SHE HAS RAISED UP HIS CHILDREN IN PAST YEARS AS A RESULT OF HIS CONDUCT.

AS SOON AS HIS FORMER MISTRESS WAS BURNED TO DEATH IN THE FIRE, HE SWITCHED TO ANOTHER ONE.

YOU MEAN THE WIDOW VANOZZA CATTANEI!

A MAN, WHO MET VANOZZA AND THE CHILDREN AT THE PALACE COURT OF THE BORGIA FAMILY,

SAID THEY SEEMED LIKE THE PAINTING "MADONNA AND CHILD" BY FILIPPO LIPPI.

Hahaha

YOU SAID IT!

Wa-ah!

THEY'RE ALL CROOKED, JUST FUGITIVES FROM JUSTICE.

THE "MADONNA AND CHILD"? HE CAN'T TAKE A WIFE BECAUSE HE'S A PRIEST.

HOLD IT! STOP, JUAN!

THE DOG BIT MY FINGERS!

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU RILED IT UP!

DEVIL TAKE YOU!

DAMN IT!

EVEN IF YOU ARE MY SISTER,

I WON'T TOLERATE YOUR *IMPU-DENCE!*

Ouch!

AHH, LUCRE-TIA!?

THUD

EH?

CESARE, BIG BROTHER!

JUAN'S BEEN PICKING ON ME.

SHOOT! YOU ALWAYS RUN AWAY AND HIDE BEHIND CESARE!

Lucretia!

NO!

COME ON, LUCR-ETIA.

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! LUCRETIA IS PLAYING WITH ME.

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT TO A DOG, JUAN.

BAST

BOOK-WORM!

:SFX RUSTLE:

CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S HIDING FROM YOU!?

SMACK

MY KIND MOTHER, VANOZZA, MIGHT TREAT YOU LIKE HER OWN CHILD, BUT YOU DON'T FIT IN!

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT MY MOTHER'S SON!

SNAP

JUAN!

AH ...

SO-RRY.

NOW YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

STOP!

STOP IT YOU TWO!

WEL-COME BACK, MY DEAR CARDINAL RODE-RIGO.

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.

YOU MUST GET TIRED OF WAITING.

I WORRY THAT YOU'LL FORGET ME, BECAUSE YOU'RE SO RELUCTANT TO MEET ME.

VAN-OZZA.

THAT'S NOT IT. BECAUSE THE HOLY FATHER PASSED AWAY, I HAD A TOUGH TIME HANDLING HIS LEFT OVER BUSINESS.

OH, JUAN! YOU'VE GROWN UP.

DADDY!

HE'S IN A GROWTH SPURT RIGHT NOW.

NINE YEARS OLD, DADDY!

WHAT'S NEW? HOW OLD ARE YOU NOW?

WHAT?

YOUR FACE IS HURT?

NEVER-MIND.

WHO INJURED YOU?

IT'S JUST THE USUAL. MY BIG BROTHER WAS ANGRY AT ME BECAUSE I WAS PLAYING WITH LUCRETIA...

HIS FAVORITE ...

JUAN, DON'T SAY SUCH DREAD-FUL THINGS ABOUT CESARE!

LIAR!

THE BANDAGE IS FAKE. JUAN'S BLAMING HIM FOR MORE THAN WHAT HAPPENED

LUC-RETIA ..

NO!

IF I TELL ON HIM, HE'LL GET ME BACK LATER!

WHAT? CESARE DID THIS?

CESARE ISN'T BAD...

ISN'T BAD AT ALL...

!

tap

JUAN WILL BE HEADING OFF TO THE MILITARY SOON,

SO YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO TOUGHEN UP. I'M DEPENDING ON YOU TWO.

THERE, THERE, DON'T CRY.

DON'T WORRY.

I'LL STAY WITH YOU.

...!

MY LOVELY MOTHER. IF ONLY I COULD BELIEVE THAT YOUR SMILE HAD BEEN REAL...

BUT YOUR BEAUTIFUL SMILE WAS SO FLEETING.

IN THIS WORLD FULL OF LIES...

TO MARRY ANOTHER MAN

YOU LEFT US ONE BRIGHT MORNING...

THE CARDINAL IS GUILTY OF A SIN, BUT LADY VANOZZA SHOULD BE PITIED.

IT'S SAID THAT WHEN THEIR RELATIONSHIP CAME OUT INTO THE LIGHT, THE CARDINAL FORCED HER TO QUICKLY MARRY ANOTHER MAN.

DON'T CRY. THE CHILDREN OF THE BORGIA FAMILY ARE STRONG.

MOM!

MOM, PLEASE DON'T GO ANY-WHERE!

BUT IT'S AMAZING HOW LADY VANOZZA AGREED.

REALLY. BUT AT LEAST SHE'LL BE FREED OF THE STIGMA OF BEING A MISTRESS.

AS EXPECTED-

...

L... LIE ...

YOU'RE A LIAR...

LIAR ...

POP

LIAR!

YOU'LL LEAVE ME BEHIND.

SH... SHUT UP!

I HATE YOU!

DON'T COME NEAR ME!

YOU'RE A LIAR ...

LIAR... LIES...

LIAR ...

L... LIE ...

LIA-R.

-ES

THEY'RE...

FADING AWAY...

whoosh

LI-AR.

LI-ES.

YOU'RE A BIT DIFFER-ENT FROM ALL THE OTHER CHILDREN ON THE STREETS.

BUT DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU. YOU NEED TO WORK OUT WHAT FATE HAS IN STORE FOR YOU YOURSELF.

KEEP YOUR WILL STRONG. REMEMBER, GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

TAKE THIS.

IT WILL HELP YOUR WILL HOLD FAST.

VAN-OZZA ...

THANK YOU. YOUR LIGHT HAS HELPED ME...

MOMMY! NO!

MOM!

drip

BY MYSELF...?

MY NAME IS ADRIANA ORSINI. I'M RELATED TO YOUR FAMILY ON THE SPANISH SIDE.

I'VE ACCEPTED THE CARDINAL'S PROPOSAL TO BECOME YOUR CARETAKER.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

AND YET...

HOW CAN I STAND IN THIS DARKNESS...

WHIP

LUC-RETIA!

NO!

VANOZZA IS A BETTER MOMMY!

SHE'S SCARY! I DON'T LIKE HER

LUC-RETIA!

I ASKED IF YOU UNDER-STOOD ME?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL!

STOP IT!

I MUST BREAK HER AWAY FROM HER CHILD-HOOD.

HOW DARE YOU! SPEAK TO ME THIS WAY! I UNDERSTAND YOU WERE CODDLED.

Ah!

I WILL NEVER ALLOW ...

ANYONE TO HIT LUCRETIA!

~SFX: WHIP~

Ahhh!

HOW DARE YOU!

YOU ...

LOOK WHAT YOU DID...

WHIP

WHIP

HE'S SO ADMIRABLE! HE TRULY HOLDS UP YOUR FATHER'S EXPECTATIONS, IN SPITE OF BEING A YEAR YOUNGER THAN YOU.

WHIP

I HEARD YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER JUAN IS AN EXCELLENT CHILD.

CARDINAL RODERIGO EVEN SENT HIM, INSTEAD OF YOU, TO THE MILITARY SCHOOL IN SPAIN.

JUST COMPARE YOUR ACTIONS TO HIS! YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED!

IT'S OKAY, LUCR-ETIA.

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL...

BIG BRO-THER!

CESARE!

SO, YOU'LL STAY WITH ME, LUCRETIA.

I FORBID YOU FROM SEEING CESARE.

NO!

CESARE, NO!

LUC-RETIA!

I'VE NEVER...

SLAP

YOU'RE AN AWFUL CHILD!

YOU HAVEN'T SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR LIFE! NOW, APOLO-GIZE!

APOLOGIZE!

REALLY FELT IMPOR-TANT...

A CHILD LIKE HER GETS REBELLIOUS WHEN LEFT ALONE TOO LONG.

SHE MUST BE TRAINED AGAIN FROM THE BEGIN-NING.

NO! Let go of me!

I CAN'T SO MUCH AS COME TO MY LITTLE SISTER'S DEFENSE

glare

!?

grab

AH ...

MY NAME IS ORSO ORSINI. I'M ADRIANA'S SON.

YOU'LL STAY WITH ME.

YOUR FACE IS BEAUTIFUL. IT'S AS IF YOU WEREN'T RODERIGO'S SON.

OOPS! THE PUBLIC THINKS YOU'RE HIS NEPHEW, RIGHT?

grind

Ouch!

I'M GLAD I MET YOU TODAY, YOUNG BORGIA!

BUT... WHY!?

I JUST MET HIM TODAY

THIS MAN SHOWS SUCH AN AWFUL HATRED...

MY MOTHER IS PROUD OF HER UPBRINGING IN VALENCIA.

EVERYTHING AT THIS COURT IS BASED ON SPANISH CUSTOMS.

step

step

step

IN SHORT, EVERYTHING YOU KNOW WILL NO LONGER HOLD TRUE!

clang

clang

clang

clang

clang

WE MUST PREPARE HERE FOR EVERY POSSIBLE SCENARIO.

NOT ONLY IN ITALY, BUT EVEN IN ROME, SEEDS OF CONFLICT HAVE TAKEN ROOT.

THEY ARE HIRED GUARDS.

THOSE MEN ...?

→SFX: CLANG←

Haha

YOU'RE JUST TOO WEAK!

C'MON, GIVE ME A BREAK!

DA-RN!

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH MARRONE.

WHO'S THAT KID? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE.

THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THEY TOOK IN BORGIA'S CHILDREN.

AT ANY RATE, IT'S NONE OF OUR BUSI-NESS.

HRM.

BORGIA'S...!

!

PUSH

GO IN HERE.

!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WE'RE HERE TO WELCOME YOU, BORGIA'S CHILD.

!

AW ...

HOW CUTE

He he he.

THUD

WHAT, AREN'T YOU GOING TO TRY TO RUN AWAY?

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

SFX: WHAM

Gah!

FORGET IT! YOU'RE PITIFUL!

GRAB

Y...

YO-UI

DAMN IT!

GRAB HIM!

SLIPPERY LITTLE THING!

WHAM

Ahh!

GOT YOU!

Mmph...

PASS ME A ROPE SO I CAN TIE HIM UP!

DON'T STRU-GGLE.

I CAN DO THIS TO LUCRETIA INSTEAD OF YOU.

OR WOULD THAT BE WORSE FOR YOU?

!

SAY!

JUST KEEP TALK-ING!

WHY? WHAT ARE YOU GETTING OUT OF THIS?

OR IS THIS HOW YOU WELCOME PEOPLE IN SPAIN!?

-:SFX: SCRAPE:-

THIS WILL PAY BACK RODERIGO FOR HOW HE HUMILIATES ME!

TO THINK, THE CARDINAL'S SON WILL BE RAPED BY SOME STRANGER WHILE HE ISN'T LOOKING!

OH, I KNOW YOU'LL TELL HIM, BUT I'M DETERMINED. IT'LL BE WORTH THE LOOK ON HIS FACE WHEN HE FINDS OUT.

MY FATHER WON'T BE AFFECTED, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...!

-SFX: RIP-

!

IT'S WORTH A TRY!

STOP!

NO...

STOP ...

!?

THEY ALWAYS JUST LOOK AT ME

pop

bubble

bail

AGAIN, THOSE THINGS...

slip

IT'S LIKE YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH AND BIDE YOUR TIME. IT'S AS IF YOU WERE WAITING FOR A NUT TO RIPEN AND FALL NATURALLY...

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!?

WHAT

DAMN IT! THE ROPE CAME LOOSE!

WAIT!

ALWAYS

YET UNLIKE THE DEVIL IN THE STORIES, YOU WON'T HELP ME.

NOT EVEN WHEN I THINK I WOULD SELL MY SOUL FOR IT

gr gasp

BUT FORGET ABOUT YOU.

YOU SHOULDN'T BOTHER COMING IF YOU AREN'T GOING TO HELP.

I'LL NEVER EXPECT ANY-THING FROM YOU!

I WANT IMMEASUR-ABLE POWER THAT NO ONE CAN DEFEAT!!

BANG

OH!

EXCUSE ME!

YOU SHOULDN'T PLAY ROUGH IN SUCH A PLACE.

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'RE JUST A HIRED GUARD!

INDEED, I'M A HIRED GUARD.

BUT LOOKING AT THIS SCENE, MY CONSCIENCE WON'T JUST LET ME WALK AWAY.

HIM!?

THE MAN WHO WON FIRST PLACE AT THE SWORDPLAY TOURNAMENT?

HEY... THAT'S MARRONE ...

YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT WITH HIM.

PLEASE LEAVE NOW.

DAMN! I'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THIS!

CAN YOU STAND?

ARE YOU OKAY? YOU'RE A MESS.

THERE WAS SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT ORSINI'S SON, SO I FOLLOWED HIM.

LOOKS LIKE YOU BARELY ESCAPED.

HOO-BOY, LOOKS LIKE BORGIA'S SON IS PIG-HEADED.

OH? ARE YOU INTER-ESTED IN A SWORD?

THIS...

WE-
LL,

IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR TRAINING.

I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO USE ONE SOMEDAY ...

AS WELL AS YOU DO.

AH,

I'M SO GLAD YOU CAME.

CARDINAL RODERIGO ...

I SEE ♡

YES, SHE IS.

SHE'S LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.

IS JULIA HERE?

SHH ...

I CAME HERE INCOGNITO.

...!

OLD LECHER!

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

!

THAT WOMAN

THAT'S JULIA FARNESE, ORSO'S WIFE, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...

WAIT

I... SEE

HIS MOTHER UNDERMINES HIS AUTHORITY...

OFFERING HER SON'S WIFE TO RODERIGO.

AND HIS WIFE GOES ALONG WITH IT.

BECAUSE ORSO CAN'T TAKE OUT HIS ANGER ON THE CARDINAL, HE'S GOING TO MAKE ME A SCAPEGOAT...!

glare

G ...

GR ...

SO THAT'S THE REASON ORSO HATES ME?

DAMN, BEASTLY PEOPLE!

HEY, MARR-ONE,

HE'S LOOKING AT YOU.

clang

clang

HEY, BORGIA'S KID!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE WATCHING ME,

BUT I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN WOMEN!

...dio!

I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.

WOULD YOU MIND INSTRUCTING ME IN SWORDPLAY?

AREN'T YOU THE CARDINAL'S SON?

SWORD-PLAY DOESN'T MIX IN WITH THE CHURCH.

I'M NOT GOING TO JOIN THE CHURCH.

OH? WHY NOT?

BEC-AUSE ...

I WANT TO BE MY OWN GOD!

Don't worry, guys, there *ARE NO* pages 051-055.

I'd misnumbered the first chapter (sorry!) It should have ended at page 55

This chapter starts on page 56.

The 4 missing pages were likely blank pages at the beginning, the table of contents, and inside cover (which I labeled as pg00a and b).

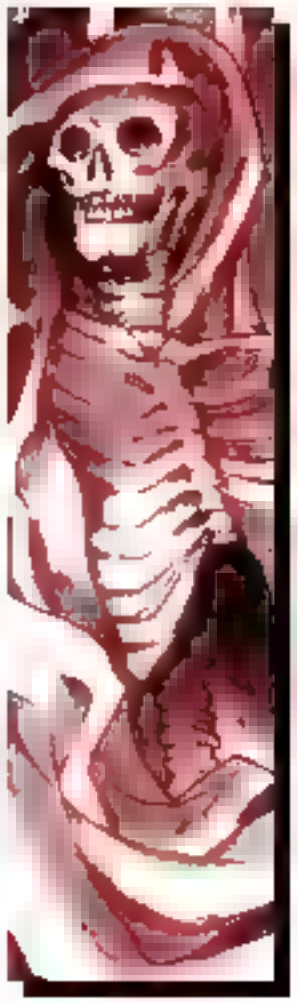
In conclusion, don't worry, you've got everything

Sorry again!

~Kalendel

Cantarella

Volume 1, chapter 2



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STORM IN HEAVEN

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CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

SHOOSH

!

HNAH

HOW REFRE-SHING!

DON'T MAKE HIM CRY, MARR-ONE!

OH, YOU PRACTICE SWORD-PLAY, BORGIA'S SON?

AS USUAL, I STILL CAN'T MATCH MARRONE. IT'S SO FRUSTRAT-ING...

UH ...

NICE TRY,

BUT A FEW CHARGES AREN'T GOING TO BE ENOUGH.

DON'T FEEL SO PRESSURED OVER IT. I ASSURE YOU, SOME DAY...

YOU'LL BE STRON-GER THAN ME.

REA-LLY!?

WHOOPS, LOOKS LIKE I NICKED YOUR CHEEK ...

IT'S NOT A PROBLEM. I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.

BUT IF YOU GET A SCAR, YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES BEHIND US WILL HOLD A GRUDGE AGAINST ME.

What! His face was injured!?

HEY, HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU NOT TO TREAT ME LIKE A GIRL?!

He He

YOU'RE MORE CUTE AND DELICATE THAN MOST GIRLS.

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?

I'LL GET YOU BACK FOR THAT!

I'M ALMOST AS AS MUCH OF A MAN AS YOU ARE!

HA HA HA!

IF YOU SAY SO!

SHOOT! DON'T MOCK ME!

!

YOU'RE ALL ON SUCH GOOD TERMS ...

YOU SHOULD KNOW YOUR PLACE, MARRONE. HE'S RELATED TO THE CARDINAL BY BLOOD...

A MERE HIRED GUARD LIKE YOU SHOULDN'T TALK TO HIM.

ORSO ORSINI ..

YOU SHOULDN'T HANG AROUND THAT KIND OF PERSON. COME ON, CESARE.

ADRIANA ORSINI'S SON.

I APOL-OGIZE...

I'LL NEVER TAKE ANYONE'S ORDERS.

ESPECIALLY NOT FROM A COWARD LIKE YOU, WHO TRIES TO HIT ON WEAKLINGS...!

grab

I GET IT.

I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND UNTIL YOU GET BURNED.

IF YOU WANT ME TO FOLLOW YOU,

YOU SHOULD TRY TO FORCE ME TO.

YOU'RE ONLY THE BYBLOW OF AN AMOROUS CARDINAL!

IDIOT!

ACTING ARROGENT WHILE I'M BEING NICE!

GRIP

IT'LL BE FINE, JUST WATCH.

HEY MARONE, IS THIS OKAY?

IF YOU DON'T HELP, BORGIA'S BOY WILL BE KILLED.

WHAT!?

SFX: CLANG

I MUST BE IMAGINING IT — HE HAS TO BE A FIRST TIMER.

BLOODLUST!?

CLANG

WHAT'S THIS ACCURATE SWORD-PLAY.?

HOW CAN I BE PRESSED BY A BOY OF SUCH SLENDER BUILD?

CLASH

AND HE HAS AN INHERENT ABILITY TO FORESEE THE ENEMY'S MOVEMENTS ...

BUT HE ALSO ABSORBS ALL MY LESSONS WITH THE SAME EASE THAT THE DRIED EARTH DRINKS UP RAIN.

HE DOESN'T ONLY HAVE TALENT...

HE IS...

A PRO-DIGY.

AN OMINOUS BOY...!

CLANG

Ah!

THUNK

DON'T ...

EVER COME NEAR ME AGAIN!

Tough luck!

SHH!

glowing

YOU'VE COME SO FAR IN SUCH A SHORT TIME...

IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU'LL BE THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN ROME.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE A GOOD TEACHER! I'LL ALSO DO BETTER NEXT TIME...

MA-RRO-NE?

SORRY KID, I GOTTA GO!

BUT JULIA IS MY FATHER'S

JULIA?

HEY, IS THAT RUMOR TRUE?

RUM-OR?

THEY SAY THAT ORSO'S WIFE AND MARRONE KNOW EACH OTHER.

ORSO'S WIFE IS LADY JULIA, RIGHT? THAT TAKES THE CAKE,

TO BE WITH SUCH A BEAU-TIFUL LADY!

I'm envious!

SHE'S PROBABLY UNFAITHFUL BECAUSE HER HUSBAND IS LIKE THAT.

MASTER CESARE!

AREN'T YOU MASTER CESARE?

DEAR GOD, MISS LUCRETIA

MM ...

MM ...

LU-CRE-TIA!

I DON'T FEEL WELL, CAN YOU ...

LEAVE ME ALONE WITH CESARE?

Y-

YES ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

HAS A DOCTOR LOOKED YOU OVER?

NN-

NN-

NN-

giggle

giggle

giggle

!

:SFX POUNCE:

LUCRETIA, YOU TRICKED ME!

CESARE, BIG BROTHER!

WE PLAYED IN THE GARDEN, ROLLING AROUND AND MAKING A MESS EVERY DAY.

IT USED TO BE OUR SWEET MOTHER, CESARE, AND JUAN BACK THEN.

I JUST CAN'T TAKE IT...

I WANT VANOZZA BACK!

I CAN'T MEET YOU WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

I haven't talked to you for a week!

WELL,

BECAUSE AUNTY HAS BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON ME,

THOSE SWEET DAYS(WILL NEVER COME BACK...

EVER...

BUT I'LL STAY WITH YOU. I SWEAR.

I'LL ALWAYS STAY WITH YOU...

WOULD SHE BE ANNOYED IF WE WENT TO SEE HER?

YOU SHOULDN'T BE ASKING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE. OUR MOTHER GOT MARRIED TO SOMEONE ELSE. I WONDER...

HER TINY BODY SHAK NG LIKE A LITTLE BIRD...

SHE IS ONE HAPPY MEMORY LEFT FOR ME...

I'LL ALWAYS BE YOUR KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR!

YES ... I SWE- AR.

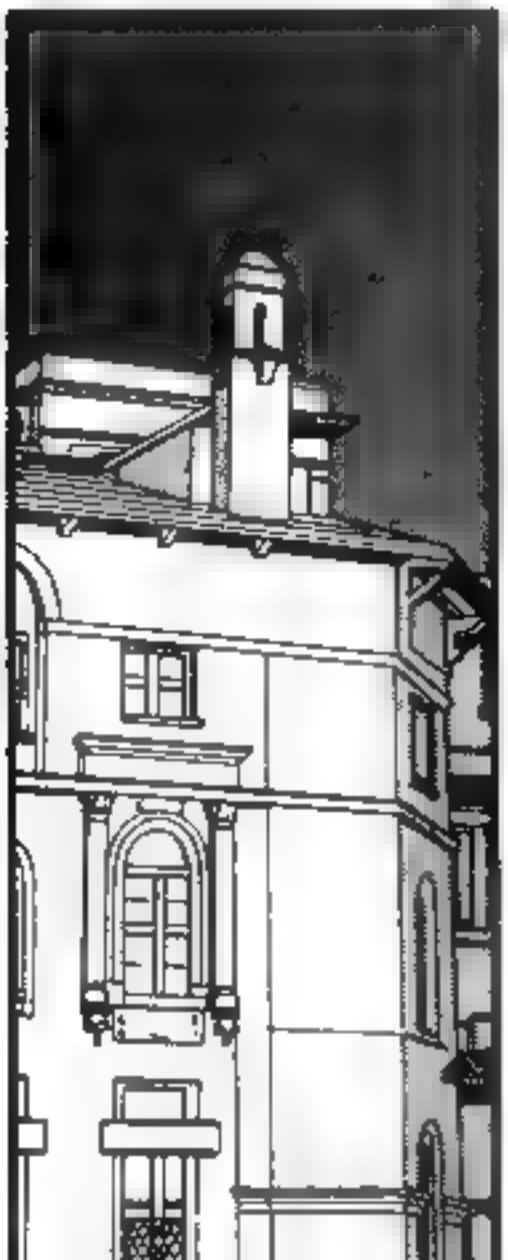
!

REA- LLY?

-SFX: SQUEEZE-

CROSS YOUR HEART,

AND SWE- AR IT!



BUT DIFFER- ENT FROM HER,

VAN- OZZA.

ALL SWEET SUNSHINE AND PERFUME,

LISTEN,

creak

GR-EAT!

YOU'LL ALWAYS BE UNDER SUSPICION THAT WE'RE PUMPING YOU FOR INFORMATION.

AFTER ALL, THE LADY JULIA IS RODERIGO'S SWEET HEART.

WITH YOUR PATRONAGE, I'LL GATHER INFORMATION ON LORD RODERIGO.

THEN... ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS CARRY OUT WHAT WE PLANNED EARLIER.

THAT'S WHY I MOVED IN ON HER RIGHT AWAY!

whoosh

MY PERFO-MANCE IS A COMPLETE SUCCESS.

SHE HARDLY EVEN REMEMBERS HER HUSBAND'S NAME!

THE LADY IS...

COM-PLETELY ADDICTED TO ME!

DID A THIEF GET YOU?

CH— A DEAD BODY.

WHO-OPS.

WHO THE HECK IS SLEEPING HERE!

Ack!

Gwah!

YOU'RE VERY CONFI-DENT, MA-RRO-NE.

OF COURSE! I'VE EARNED MY LIVING BY THIS AND SWORDPLAY.

I'LL TAKE MY PAYMENT AND GET GOING.

IT'S BECOM-ING DAN-GEROUS HERE, IN ROME.

I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED, SINCE THE HOLY FATHER IS...

UTTERLY CORRUPT

flap flap

IT'S RARE FOR SOMETHING AS UNIQUE AS YOU TO BE HERE.

kii kii kii

kii kii kii

BUT YOU'RE IN MY WAY, AND I CAN'T READ MY BOOK.

grin

EXCUSE ME—

oops!

swat

swat

A—

AH!

WH—

WHAT ARE YOU!? YOU AREN'T A NORMAL INSECT!

I'LL BE FINE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN A HUMAN ATTRACT AS MANY GHOSTS AS YOU.

Amazing!

I DO MIND!

CAN YOU PLEASE GET OUT OF HERE?

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'M JUST A WIZARD BRIEFLY STOPPING BY...

I'M LIKE A MOTH ATTRACTED TO YOUR STRONG LIFE FORCE.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU WERE BORN WITH A DARK FATE...

DON'T MIND ME.

DARK FATE?

DON'T YOU SEE?

THAT ...

THAT IS THE GREAT RIVER OF THE PEOPLE YOU WILL KILL...

IN THE FUTURE.

BANG

I CAN PICTURE YOU NOW, STAINED WITH BLOOD. IT'S VERY...

BEAU-TIFUL

THAT'S WHY...

THE GHOSTS CHOSE YOU.

tch

OH YES,

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE PIECE OF ADVICE.

DON'T BECOME LIKE CARDINAL RODERIGO.

HE'S THE REASON YOU STARTED DOWN THIS PATH.

WIZARD, WHO ARE YOU?

WHY DID YOU SHOW ME THAT!?

WHAT DID FATHER DO!?

ANSWER, WIZARD!

SWISH

I'LL ...

SEE YOU AGAIN, SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE.

THEN I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR ENTIRE LIFE STORY.

THAT WAS JUST HOCUS-POCUS...

Tattle

DAMN IT!

THAT WAS!!!

A GHOST!?

!

giggle

NO ONE WILL ...

giggle STOP! NOT HERE. WHAT IF SOMEONE COMES?

AT THIS LATE AN HOUR?

WHAT'S GOING ON...

giggle giggle Stop

—? NO.. I WONDER WHAT IT IS?

MARRONE, JULIA!

THUD

STOP

HEY, WHEN WILL LORD RODERIGO COME HERE AGAIN?

HE SAID TWO OR THREE DAYS FROM NOW.

YOU WANT ME TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF HIM LIKE USUAL, RIGHT?

WHEN ALL OF THIS IS FINISHED, JULIA, LET'S GO TO ROME.

WE'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME.

HURRAY! MARRONE, I'LL DO JUST ABOUT ANYTHING FOR YOU!

THIS TIME A MISTAKE WOULD COST US BIG TIME, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO DO AS I SAY.

CLEVER WOMAN!

WHAT IS IT?

DON'T TAKE MY WORD FOR IT, BUT HE'LL GO CRAZY WHEN HE DRINKS IT.

IT'S SO EFFECTIVE, THOUGH, THAT IT'LL GIVE HIM QUICK RELIEF.

'ATTA GIRL...

NOW, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS POUR THIS IN HIS WINE.

A DEADLY POISON!?

IS MARRONE AN ASSASSIN? IT CAN'T BE...

DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, ORSO.

THAT MAN IS NEXT IN LINE TO BECOME THE POPE...

WE HAVE TO BEAR WITH THIS NOW,

SO THAT WHEN HE BECOMES THE HOLY FATHER, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET ANYTHING WE WANT.

NOT AGAIN!

THAT OLD LECHER ...

WHAT DOES HE THINK HE'S DOING WITH MY WIFE!

THAT'S BECAUSE CARDINAL RODERIGO WILL BE COMING TODAY.

SAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN JULIA AROUND LATELY...

YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKING, JULIA...

Uende

THAT'S FOR MY UNCLE?

CE--

CESA-RE...

AH-

CAN I HAVE SOME?

splish splash

OF COURSE, A PRIEST HAVING A CHILD WOULD BE A SIN AGAINST GOD...

grasp

HM.

YOU KNOW HIM WELL.

I SEE... HE HESITATES TO CALL HIS FATHER "FATHER".

YES ...

ALWAYS HAS A DRINK AT AROUND THIS TIME BEFORE HE GOES TO SLEEP.

D... DON'T!

YOU'RE ONLY A CHILD...

IT WILL DEFINITELY BE A MESS IF THE BOY DIES HERE LIKE THIS!

THE DRINK'S TOO STRONG FOR YOU!

Ah

shove

WELL THEN,

YOU DRINK IT,

JULIA.

Ahh!

WELL ...

I'M VERY INTERESTED IN SEEING HOW THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

DOESN'T IT START TO WORK QUICKLY?

IT CAN'T BE! DOES HE KNOW?

S... STOP IT, CESARE!

I DON'T NEED A DRINK ...

→SFX: CRASH←
JULIA, WHAT'S WRONG!?
Stop it! Noo!
OHH, LORD RODE-RIGO!
LORD RODE-RIGO!
...!

~SFX. WHACK~
FA-
THER
...
I'M
SCARED
...
CE-
SA-
RE.
CESARE
SUDDENLY
JUMPED
OUT AT
ME!
~SFX. CRUMPLE~

DID YOU THREATEN HER...

WHAT IS...

THAT ACCUSATORY LOOK FOR?

FOR MY BENEFIT!?

...!

NO...

...

NOW

IT'S USELESS TO GIVE EXCUSES.

MY FATHER WILL NEVER BELIEVE WHAT I SAY!

Ouch!

CESARE, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS FOR A LONG TIME.

I'VE DECIDED TO SEND YOU TO THE SEMINARY IN PERUGIA.

YOU SHOULD STAY AWAY FROM ROME FOR A WHILE.

FATHER ...

DO YOU HATE ME SO MUCH?

WHY...

I DON'T HATE YOU.

I THINK THIS WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU.

DASH

AHH, MASTER CESARE ...

GET OUT OF HERE!

LET IT GO...

step

HEY, BORGIA'S BOY,
IT TOOK ME A QUITE A WHILE TO TRACK YOU DOWN.

THEN, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT ME?

BY CHANCE ...

I'VE HEARD FROM JULIA. HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

THEN YOU SHOULD MAKE A RUN FOR IT.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE ARRESTED.

I love my freedom.

PLEASE TAKE ME ALONG!

MARR -ONE,

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LET ME GO?

SO PLEASE,

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!

PLEASE

I'LL DO ANYTHING! IF YOU TELL ME TO FORGET, I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING!

IF THINGS KEEP GOING LIKE THIS, I THINK I'LL FORGET HOW TO LOVE SOMEONE...

CE-SARE ...

whoosh

slide

MAR-
RO—

!

W...

WHY ...?

DON'T THINK BADLY OF ME.

YOU'D STAB ME IN THE BACK BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.

EVEN MORE SO BECAUSE YOU'RE THE CARDINAL'S SON...

IT'D BE SUICIDAL IF I RAN AWAY WITH YOU.

slip

POOR THING, I'LL FINISH YOU OFF QUICKLY!

GLARE

WHAT IS THIS!?

!

SO YOU CAN SEE THEM TOO? I'D THOUGHT ONLY VANOZZA COULD SEE THEM.

SLASH

AHHH!

IT SEEMS YOUR PERSONALITY SUITS THEM.

SO THEY'RE ATTRACTED TO YOU.

ARGH! STAY AWAY!

YOU'RE A MONSTER!

MONSTER!

THIS IS THE END, MARR-ONE.

~SFX:STAB~

I WILL ...

NEVER CRY ...

BECAUSE MY TEARS ARE FROZEN IN THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART

ALLOWS ME TO LIVE

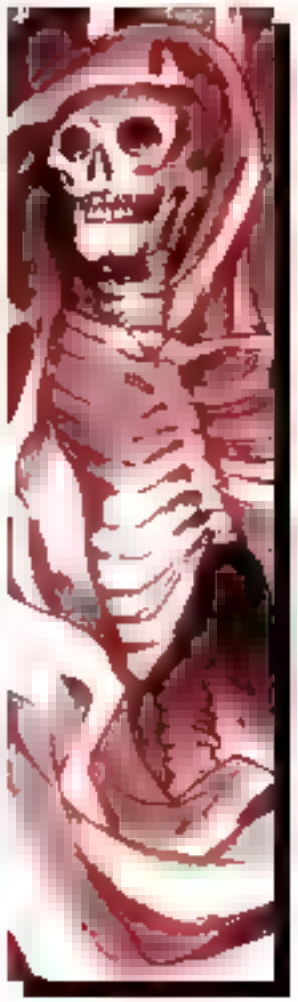
NEVER-THELESS, IF GOD

TO SEE WHAT'S WAITING AT THE END

I'LL CLIME OVER A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES

Cantarella

Volume 1, chapter 3



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STORM IN HEAVEN

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CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

Gah ...

Ohh ...

:SFX: SCREAMING:

A...

AAARGH!

OH, YOU'RE THE NEW GUY, SO YOU WOULDN'T KNOW...

turn

WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!?

HE'S THE LORD...

OF THIS CASTLE OF SAINTS AND ANGELS.

HE'S A PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN WHOSE NAME STRIKES FEAR INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS
HE DOES HIS JOB WITH A TERRIFYING, COLD BRUTALITY.
WELL, THAT'S WHAT THEY USED TO SAY ABOUT HIM.
BUT NOW HE'S BEEN CAUGHT AND TORTURED BECAUSE HE KILLED TOO MANY PEOPLE.
I'M NOT TOO SURE ABOUT THE PARTICULARS, BUT HE'S GONE MAD AND HAS BEEN ALL BUT BROKEN. HE'S CONFINED IN AN UNDERGROUND PRISON.
HE'S CALLED THE HERALD OF DARKNESS. HE'S TOO VICIOUS, THOUGH, SO HE'S USUALLY PUT OUT OF THE WAY UNTIL HE HAS A JOB TO DO.
THEY'RE WAITING FOR HIM TO FALL INTO DECAY WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.
IT'S MISERABLE...

LU-CRE-TIA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HOW UNDIGNI-FIED!

AH! PLEASE WAIT, MISS LUCRE-TIA!

DASH

CE-SARE!

I JUST HEARD!

YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE, AND ENTER THE SEMINARY SCHOOL IN PERUGIA!

IT'S BECAUSE FATHER'S ORDERED IT...

SMACK

LIAR!

NO! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!

LU-CRE-TIA ...

NO! NO, YOU'RE A LIAR!

YOU SAID THAT YOU'D ALWAYS STAY WITH ME AND PROTECT ME!

AH...

JULIA ...

BRO-THER ...

Y-

YES?

LU-CRE-TIA.

YOU CAN LISTEN TO WHAT JULIA SAYS FROM NOW ON.

SHE'LL BE A GOOD ADVISOR.

SO THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

IF I'M NOT HERE, JULIA WILL ENSURE THAT YOU'LL GET WHATEVER YOU WANT.

I FEEL DIFFERENT SOMEHOW

AH. WHAT?

!

EX-CUSE ME, I HAVEN'T PREPARED YET.

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, LUCRETIA.

COULD IT BE MY IMAGINATION ?

CE-SARE ...

I LOVE YOU...

I LOVE YOU ...!

MY FEELINGS FOR YOU WON'T CHANGE, EVEN IF WE'RE SEPARATED!

I LOVE YOU TOO,

LU-CRE-TIA.

IT MAY JUST BE MY IMAGINATION, BUT HE SEEMED CLOSE TO TEARS FOR A MOMENT...

rustle

glance

glance

EH?

HOW UNEXPECT-EDLY CUTE ...

I JUST WANT TO SETTLE THINGS.

I THINK ... THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.

MIS-TAK-EN?

WHY ... DO YOU FOLLOW ME, JULIA?

AH!

YES... THEY'RE ALL MIS-TAKEN.

I'M NOT AS WICKED A WOMAN AS YOU THINK I AM.

YES ...

IF YOU DESIRE IT ...

I'LL SHOW YOU MORE LOVELY THINGS...

IS THIS A SIGN YOU AREN'T A WICKED WOMAN?

HM ...

IF I DESIRE IT ...

GOOD GOD, LADY ORSINI!

WORD'S COME THAT SOMEONE HAS KILLED MARRONE

SOME-ONE

THEY SAID HIS DEAD BODY WAS FOUND IN THE FOR-ROMANO CEMETARY!

!

AH!

WHAT'S WRONG?

DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU'D SHOW ME MORE LOVELY THINGS?

YOU ...

YOU... DIDN'T ...

DIDN'T ...

WHAT?

MM...

MM!

AH...

N–
NO!
STOP
IT!

NOO!

MUR-
DERER!
YOU'RE A
MUR-
DERER!

DON'T
SCREAM
AND YELL
...

OR
I'LL SEND
YOU TO
THE SAME
PLACE AS
MARRONE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...

ARE YOU GOING TO KILL ME...?

WHY ...

MAR-RONE ...

collapse

WHY DID YOU DO THAT? HE CHERISHED YOU SO MUCH...

YOU'RE THE WICKED ONE!

I DON'T THINK I'LL KILL YOU, JULIA.

I'LL MAKE YOU WORK FOR ME...

MY SWEET ONE ...

YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PIECE TO ME.

SLAP

Ha...

A— HAHA HA!

He

He he he ...

RUN!

AN UNHOLY FEAR OF HIM ...

I HAVE ...

IT'S AWFUL!

step

JULIA FAR-NESE?

AH ...

WHO ARE YOU?

WHAT? RODE-RIGO'S ...

RODERIGO BORGIA'S SON DID THAT TO MARRONE!?

YES. ACCORDING TO JULIA'S STORY,

HE'D FOUND OUT ABOUT THE PLOT TO KILL CARDINAL RODERIGO.

HE'S ONLY A CHILD, BUT HE'S CAPABLE OF THAT...!?

RODE-RIGO'S SON, CESARE BORGIA.

BUT IF THAT BOY BECOMES FAMOUS BY ANY CHANCE,

I WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH THIS.

THEN ...

WE MUST KILL OFF WHATEVER TRIVIAL FEARS COME OUR WAY.

LORD FRAN-CESCO ...

LOOK!

CATCH THAT KID!

HOLD IT!

THIEF!

IN THESE TIMES, IT ISN'T UNCOMMON FOR A CHILD'S DEAD BODY TO BE FOUND FLOATING IN THE TIBER.

EVEN IF...

IT HAPPENS TO BE BORGIA'S CHILD —

HE'S DONE IT AGAIN!

DAMN CHIARO! I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT!

WHERE DID HE GO!?

HEH,

THE GREAT CHIARO ...

Nya!

CAN'T BE CAUGHT SO EASILY!

Aha haha ...

:SFX: SURPRISED:

TODAY WE'RE GOING TO TEACH YOU A LESSON ...

YOU KEEP DOING THIS.

slam crush

I FOUND HIM!

N–

WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR CLOTHES LOOK HORRIBLE.

PUT A SOCK IN IT.

HEY, THEY SAID NOT TO GET INVOLVED WITH HIM.

>SFX: CRASH, CLANG<

AARGGHH...

SORRY.

IT TOOK ME A WHILE BECAUSE I HAD TO GO DOWNTOWN TO GET FOOD.

!

DAD ...

AHHH!

A ...

AH!

IF YOU GRAB ME LIKE THAT, THE BREAD WILL FALL ALL OVER!

AAA ...

I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU BEHIND, DAD, SO CALM DOWN.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.

WHAT?

BUT HE'S NO LONGER ...

THERE'S A JOB FOR THE ARCHANGEL, MOVE ASIDE.

MARSHAL BAR-TRONO!

!

Y... YOU'RE ...

HOW'S YOUR FATHER DOING, CHIARO?

THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM ...

!?

HE'S EVEN MORE SKILLED ... THAN HIS FATHER ...!

AH... BARTRONO!

slip

WAIT!

I... I DON'T WANT TO! I HATE KILLING PEOPLE!

ISN'T IT YOUR FAMILY'S CUSTOM-ARY JOB?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING NOW?

IT'S THE MASK YOU INHERITED FROM YOUR FATHER,

THE "ASSASSIN MICHE-LOTTO."

GEEZ ...

THAT JOB ...?

IF YOU'RE A GOOD, OBEDIENT BOY, WE MAY EVEN TREAT HIM BETTER.

I HOLD THE KEY TO MICHAEL'S LIFE AND DEATH.

LISTEN CHIARO, UNLESS YOU WANT YOUR FATHER TO DIE, DO AS I SAY.

WILL YOU RELEASE HIM!?

IF I FINISH THIS JOB,

THEN— IF I...

THEN,

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ME KILL?

THEN,

I'LL ACCEPT THE JOB.

I SEE ...

I SWEAR IT.

AH,

CE-SARE ... BOR-GIA ...

SO HE'S A YOUNG NOBLE-MAN.

THE ELDEST SON OF THE BORGIA FAMILY.

shudder

W WHAT!? HIS ENTIRE BEARING CHANGED JUST FROM DONNING THE MASK!?

A DEADLY ARCH ANGEL

IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.

OH HELLO, CARDINAL RODERIGO!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME TO THE VATICAN TODAY.

ISN'T TODAY THE DAY YOUR SON'S LEAVING?

DON'T YOU FEEL THE SORROW OF PARTING?

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE CESARE, YOUR BASTARD, STUDY THEOLOGY AND ENTER THE CHURCH?

IF THAT'S YOUR PLAN, YOU'RE THE ONE GOING SENILE, RODERIGO!

HAH! THAT'S MY NEPHEW THAT'S LEAVING.

YOU'RE BECOMING FORGETFUL WITH AGE, CARDINAL ROVERE.

Ho ho ho!

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THAT IS TRULY AN IDIOT!

PULL

LORD ROVERE, PLEASE COME WITH ME!

PLEASE STOP, LORD RODERIGO!

SOME-ONE, HELP!

Ho ho!

I THINK I HEAR THE CRIES OF THE LOSER IN THIS FIRST MATCH

YOU THINK TOO LITTLE OF YOUR COLLEA-GUES.

WITH THE POPE'S BACKING, YOUR FAMILY AND RE.A-TIVES WOULD BE PROMOTED TO RETAIN-ERS.

I CAN'T THINK OF HOW YOU CAN SERVE GOD BY COMITTING SINS.

MARK MY WORDS, RO-VERE!

I'LL DEFINITELY WIPE THAT SMUG LOOK OFF YOUR FACE!

YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT BEING KNOCKED OFF YOUR FEET WHEN YOU SWAGGER ABOUT!

tap

FAH!

WHAT AN INSIG-NIFI-CANT MAN!

TO THIS VERY DAY, HE STILL ASPIRES TO BE POPE ..

FINE-

I'VE HIRED AN ASSASSIN,

SO IT'LL BE CLEARED UP SOON ...

IT'S REGRETTABLE THAT WE HAVE TO KILL HIM, BUT...

IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

HOW ARE THINGS PROCEEDING, FRANCESCO?

CESARE BORGIA ...

HE'S FAR TOO BRIGHT A CHILD.

"BORGIA"... THAT FAMILY ALWAYS CROSSES ME.

THEY TRULY HAVE THE DEVIL'S OWN LUCK! THE BEST THING THEY COULD DO IS FALL OFF THE EDGE OF THE EARTH...

HO HO HO HO!

ALL IN GOOD TIME...

ALL IN GOOD TIME!

BROTHER, I WON'T SAY GOODBYE TO YOU...

MISS LU-CRETIA ...

LOOK, YOUR BROTHER IS LEAVING.

MISS LU-CRETIA ...

MY... BROTHER ! ...

BECAUSE I'LL MEET YOU AGAIN SOON...

I THINK VANOZZA'S HOUSE IS AROUND HERE...

rustle

!

!

MASTER CESARE!

WHO'S THERE!?

TURN

SAY YOUR PRAY-ERS!

!

WEEIGH

MAS-
TER
CE-
SARE!

STOP
VIL-
LAIN!

HE'S IN DANGER!

Cont. next

GRAB THE REINS!

YOU'RE NOT BAD FOR A NOBLE BOY.

MY TARGET IS YOU,

SO I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL THEM.

HOW CONSID-ERATE,

ASSA-SSIN!

JUST NOW, THIS STRANGE FEELING...'

!?

WHAT ...?

≠SFX:CLOMP≠

THE DEVIL INSIDE OF ME SEEMS TO BE VANISHING...

FROM WHERE THE BOY IS TOUCHING ME,

THIS IS TAKING TOO LONG!

ARE ALL THOSE YOUR FRIENDS?

IT'S, AS F I WERE TOUCHING VANOZZA'S SPIRIT...

TURN

DAMN HOR-SE,

RUN FASTER!

IT'S WARM ..

GRAB

SFX: JERK

TOUGH LUCK,

"MASTER" CESARE!

LET ME PUT YOU OUT OF YOUR MISERY!

!

grip

-SFX SLASH-

whoosh

AH!

DAMN IT!

!

EH ...

WHAT IS THIS, COM-PASSION?

OR MAYBE YOU'VE JUST NEVER KILLED ANYONE BEFORE?

ASSA-SSIN,

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MICHE-LOTTO ...

pull

?

MICHE-LOTTO ?

THE MICHE-LOTTO!?

THIS KID IS THE LEGENDARY KILLER!?

snap

SHORTY!

YEAH.

SO DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A KID ...

WH-AT'S YOUR REAL NAME?

CHI-ARO.

nods

BUT I DIDN'T LIE... I'M MICHE-LOTTO WHEN I'M WEARING THE MASK!

I SEE...

SO, "MICHE-LOTTO" IS THE MASK ...

MA-STER CESA-RE!

jump

HEY,

swish

!?

Gk

CHI-
ARU!

COME
AFTER ME IF
YOU WANT TO
RECOVER
"MICHE-
LOTTO!

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING!?

MY
TARGET
IS YOUR
LIFE -

YOU'LL
REGRET
IT IF
YOU
DON'T
KILL ME
NOW!

WHAT... IS HE!?

HE'S CRAZY!

THAT IS,

IF YOU CAN CATCH ME!

I'LL GIVE YOU MY LIFE...

WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF!?

THIEF ...?

OH, YOU MUST BE TALKING ABOUT MY *ANGEL.*

CE-SA-RE!

ARE YOU SAFE? THANK GOD!

GOD SENT THIS ANGEL

YES ...

IN ORDER TO KEEP MY HANDS FROM BEING DYED WITH BLOOD AGAIN.

YOUR ANGEL?

MY HANDS ...

CAN'T YOU SEE...? LOOK! THEY'RE ALREADY STAINED WITH THE REMNANTS OF BLOOD THAT WILL NEVER FADE ...!

DON'T BE FOOLISH,

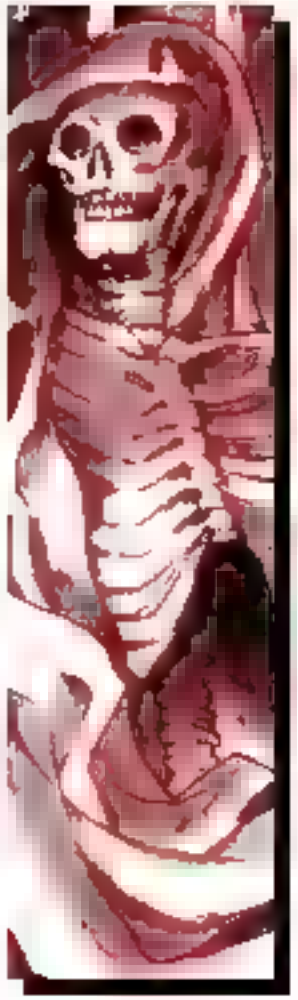
YOU'RE DESTINED TO BE A CLERGY-MAN...

IT'S UNIMAGINABLE THAT YOUR BEAUTIFUL WHITE HANDS WILL EVER BE STAINED WITH BLOOD!

ARE THEY BEAUTI-FUL?

Cantarella

Volume 1, chapter 4



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STORM IN HEAVEN

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SEX
SEX
SEX
SFX: BANG
SQUEAK

Tsk Tsk...

crackle

!?

IT'S UNNERVING TO HAVE YOU CRAWLING AROUND AT NIGHT,

ASS-ASSIN.

Hehe

YOU WANT THIS BACK, RIGHT?

"MI-CHE-LOT-TO."

jump

!

Ch-

RUSH

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WOULD COME HERE!?

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU CAN SEE THEM

YOU ...

BECAUSE YOU'RE FLAILING ABOUT WILDLY, THEY'VE APPEARED AROUND ME....

~:SFX: GLOW:~

IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE

IS STILL ...

THIS FEELING

G-G-

THE SPIRITS... ARE MELTING AWAY IN THE LIGHT..

CHIARO

WHO ARE YOU?

LET GO OF ME...!

WHO

ARE YOU

I WILL IF YOU LOWER YOUR SWORD!

IT WAS MY BETTER FEELINGS THAT SAID I'D GIVE YOU MY LIFE,

BUT I'M GOING TO DECLINE GIVING THE PLEASURE TO YOUR EMPLOYER!

DAMN, YOU'RE PLAYING DIRTY,

CE-SARE BOR-GIA!

CRACKLE

Gah!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING,

RUSH

BUT I DON'T EARN MY LIVING BY KILLING FOR PLEA-SURE!

I CAN ALMOST FIGURE IT OUT ...

YOU'RE JUST PRE-TEND-ING TO KNOW.

clang

YOUR STRE-NGTH ...

GRR

ISN'T EQUAL TO MINE.

CLATTER

SAY YOUR PRAY-ERS!

?

!

Ch—

ARE YOU OKAY?

CE-SARE?

CESARE! WHAT'S GOING ON!?

BANG BANG BANG

!

YOU SHOULD THANK ...

THAT GOODY-GOODY STUDENT.

FOR NOW,

I'LL JUST TAKE THIS BACK.

HEY YOU...

NOTHING GOOD'LL HAPPEN IF YOU STICK WITH THOSE GUYS.

RATTLE

!

creak

I HEARD A HORRIBLE CLAMOR ...

WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT BOY CESARE IS QUITE A CHARACTER. HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN THEOLOGICAL LECTURES, SO HE SKIPS THEM AND FOOLS AROUND.

THEN GOOD-NIGHT ...

AHH?

AHH... IF THAT'S IT, IT'S OKAY...

SORRY FOR BEING LOUD.

NOTHING. I STUMBLED INTO MY DESK AND SOME BOOKS FELL.

CAN HE REALLY BECOME A CARDINAL, AND DON THE RED ROBE?

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD SUIT HIM ...

WHY DOES HE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WAR!? IF HE'S LUCKY, HE CAN BECOME A CARDINAL!

BECAUSE OF POPE CALLISTO III, THE BORGIA FAMILY HAS A HISTORY IN THE CHURCH.

THE ART OF WAR!?

IT WAS TALKING ABOUT THE "ART OF WAR".

WHEN I LOOKED THROUGH A BOOK HE WAS READING,

PRACTICES SWORD-PLAY AND HORSE-MANSHIP.

RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE ALSO ...

HIS EYES...

HAVE POWER WITHIN THEM NOT PRAYERS

THAT GUY DEFINITELY ISN'T SUITED TO BE A PRIEST

HE'S A BLESSED MAN BECAUSE HIS ANCESTOR WAS THE MOST EXALTED SERVANT OF GOD!

AT ANY RATE,

THAT'S RIGHT!

HIS EYES ARE THE EYES OF A KING

clomp clomp clomp

PE-DRO ...

Flutter

OHH ...

...!

IT'S AWFUL, CARDINAL RODERIGO ...

WE JUST RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE SPANISH AMBASSA-DOR

PEDRO LUIS, THE DUKE OF GANDIA?

I'D NEVER MET HIM BECAUSE HE'D TRAVELLED ACROSS SPAIN BEFORE I WAS BORN, BUT I'M TOLD THAT HE WAS AN OLDER HALF BROTHER OF MINE...

I SEE... HE'S PASSED AWAY ...

I'D HEARD HE WAS SICKLY ...

NOW'S THE TIME, MASTER CESARE.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE VATI-CAN!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE LAUGHING!

Hahaha!

THAT'S JUST LIKE HIM ...

YOUR BROTHER, MASTER JUAN, JUST CAME BACK FROM THE SPANISH COURT.

I THINK HE EXPECTS TO INHERIT FROM HIS BROTHER, THE DUKE OF GANDIA.

THE VATI-CAN?

I DON'T HAVE FATHER'S PERMIS-SION.

YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR FATHER IF YOU CAN LEAVE THE PRIESTHOOD AND BECOME THE DUKE OF GANDIA.

NOW YOU CAN GET AHEAD OF YOUR BROTHERS.

TA-ZIO?

I'VE WAITED ON YOU SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG...

SO I KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT YOU DESIRE.

TO THE VATI-CAN

THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE!

THERE IS NOTHING...

THAT YOU DESIRE HERE!

yank

Dawn!

I'M BACK TO WHERE I START-ED!

I'LL BRING AN END TO HIM ...

IN ROME.

I'LL KILL HIM AND MY FATHER WILL BE SET FREE.

AND THEN I'LL WASH MY HANDS OF MY FATHER'S WORK FOREVER!

OH!

MY BIG BROTHER'S COMING BACK!?

LU-CRE-TIA,

REA-LLY?

YOU AREN'T JOKING?

OH!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! I'M READY TO DANCE FOR JOY!

HE SHOULD BE ARRIVING IN ROME ABOUT NOW.

I... DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN SO QUICKLY!

YOU ... REALLY LIKE CESARE ...

* Greek god of the sun.

CESARE IS MY APOLLO*!

HE'S STRONG AND SMART AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE!

IF IT'S FOR HIS SAKE, I'D DEFINITELY OFFER UP MY LIFE!

IS THAT SO? IF IT'S CESARE,

I THINK HE MIGHT EVEN CALMLY ACCEPT YOUR LIFE...

!?

JULIA?

OH NO!

PLEASE DON'T BE SO RUDE!

LU-CRE-TIA!

LU-CRE-TIA!

BRO...

PLE-ASE WAIT!

I'LL TELL HER YOU'RE HERE.

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM? JUST LET ME THROUGH!

DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS!

BRO-THER!?

!

JUAN...!

HEY.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, LUCRETIA!

I HUNTED THIS RABBIT A LITTLE WHILE AGO.

HERE YOU GO!

GEEZ, WHAT A WARM GREETING.

YOU REALLY ARE A COLD SISTER!

WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN ROME ...?

AH—

NOW THAT I'VE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO MEET YOU,

splatter

Ahh!

MISS LUCRETIA!

AHH, SORRY. IT SLIPPED FROM MY HAND AND GOT ALL OVER YOUR PRETTY FACE...

HEY, LUCRE-TIA,

WHO DID YOU THINK I WAS?

Kiss

YOU'VE ... BEEN DRINK-ING...!

NO... GET AWAY FROM ME...

YOU CAME RUSHING OVER HERE WITH JOY. WHO IS HE...!?

YES, IT WAS A TOAST ...

TO THE FUTURE DUKE OF GANDIA, JAUN BORGIA!

I HAVE A CHANCE TO BECOME THE SPANISH KING.

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO WIN MY FAVOR?

A Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha

I'M A KING! A KING!

SOME-ONE HELP!

PLEASE RELEASE HER, MASTER JUAN!

NO!

COME ON LUCRE-TIA!

IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME,

WE HAVE TO TALK! BUT NOT IN THIS ANNOYING PLACE.

WHAT ARE YOU GO-ING TO DO!?

LET GO OF ME, JUAN!

:SFX: PUSH:

WILL YOU SHUT UP!

AH!

SOME-ONE-! NO!

NO!

Ha Ha Ha Ha!

MISS LU-CRE-TIA!

IF...

YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT, I LIKE CE-SARE!

WELL LUCRE-TIA?

WHO DO YOU LIKE?

BETWEEN CESARE AND I, WHO DO YOU THINK IS BETTER?

HEY HEY! YOU'LL BE TOSSED OFF UNLESS YOU HOLD ON MORE TIGHTLY!

Ah!

¡OON

S... STOP ...

PLEASE STOP IT, I'LL FALL!

I'LL ASK AGAIN – BETWEEN CESARE AND I, WHO DO YOU LIKE MORE?

WELL LUCRE-TIA?

JERK

NEIGH

NEIGH

NEIGH

AHH!

!

STOP DOING THAT TO HER.

CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S CRYING?

BAS-TARD ...

WHY DO YOU THINK ...

YOU CAN TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!?

DRESSED IN BLACK ...!?

AN ANGEL!

SFX: CLOMP CLOMP
DO YOU INTEND TO USE HER AS A SHIELD?
I'LL CUT YOU INTO MINCED MEAT!
SHUT UP, IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
AHH!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DRAW YOUR SWORD, YOU SHOULD PUT HER DOWN FIRST.
swish
YOU'RE A ROTTEN GUY.
chill
THI... THIS GUY...!

CLANG

H-

HAHH

...

LU-
CRE-
TIA!

AHH!

DASH

Are you ser-ious?

IT... IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT THAT YOU FELL AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

SFX: TURN AND RUN

HEY ...

ARE YOU OKAY!?

step

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIED ...

gasp

HEY ...

Y...

YES.

AH ...

THEY'RE WET WITH TEARS...

AMAZING

HER BIG EYES ARE GOING TO ABSORB ME!

ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?

WHERE IS JUAN?

AH ...

YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL THAT'S ALL AFTER FALLING FROM THERE.

HE RAN AWAY BY HIMSELF.

I'M NOT SO SURE YOU SHOULD BE RIDING WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT.

OW ...

I THINK I SPRAINED MY FOOT ...

I WONDER IF HE'S HER HUSBAND ELECT OR SOMETHING

scratch

I AGREE, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED.

IS ... YOUR HOUSE NEAR HERE?

I'll take you there

THANK YOU!

MISS LU-CRE-TIA!

MY LADY!

HE HELPED ME.

AH, I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

HUH,

I GUESS HER NAME'S LUCRETIA .. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME

I... GUESS IT WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM IF I GAVE MY REAL NAME ...

AH ...

DEAR KNI-GHT, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

I'D LIKE TO HEAR IT...

CHI-ARO ...

I'LL BE FREE AND LEAVE TOWN ONCE THIS JOB IS FINISHED...

AS LONG AS I FINISH THIS JOB.

MY BLACK-ROBED ANGEL.

CHIARO ...

LIKE A LORD OF LIGHT... I'LL KEEP THAT IMAGE IN MY MIND. I'LL REMEMBER YOU.

LET'S PICK UP THE PACE.

IT'S GOING TO RAIN.

Damn.

I'VE WASTED SOME TRAVELLING TIME.

clomp

clomp

BUT I WONDER IF MY FATHER WILL EVEN MEET ME.

I CAME HERE BECAUSE I WAS TAKEN WITH YOUR GLIB TALK ...

PREPARE YOUR-SELF!

REGARDLESS THAT IT'S UNPUBLICIZED, YOU ARE HIS FULL-FLEDGED, LAWFUL CHILD.

WHY ARE YOU SO TIMID?

!

THAT'S ...!

HA!

FA-
THER.

WHAT?

CAR-
DINAL
RODE-
RIGO,

THERE'S A MAN OUTSIDE WHO WISHES TO MEET YOU IMMEDIATELY.

!

I JUST CAUGHT SIGHT OF CESARE, SO I STOPPED BY TO LET YOU KNOW.

IT ISN'T ABOUT ME.

WHAT HAP-
PENED? WHY DID YOU NEED TO MEET ME SO QUICKLY?

OH, JUAN!

IT'S GETTING LATE... IT'S BEEN A HALF HOUR SINCE HE ASKED FOR AN AUDIENCE.

drip drip

LEAVE HIM ALONE.

I KNOW WHAT HE'LL SAY. HE'LL ASK TO LEAVE THE PRIESTHOOD...

IS THIS OKAY?

HE'S WAITING IN THE RAIN.

JUAN, THE DUCHY OF GANDIA IS YOURS. I'LL GIVE YOU ALL THE POWER I CAN.

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSI-BLE... NEVER!

chuckle

I SEE,

I'LL INHERIT ALL YOUR POWER.

YOU ALWAYS WERE COLD TO MY BIG BROTHER.

HE'S A CONSTANT REMINDER OF MY CRIME ...!

OF ALL GOD'S CHIL-DREN, HE IS THE LEAST BLESSED.

DO YOU MEAN THE BLOODY AURA AROUND HIM,

WHEN YOU SAY HE REMINDS YOU OF YOUR CRIME?

!

BANG

I SEE.

SO YOU CAN FEEL IT.

NOT AT FIRST,

BUT THE AURA JUST KEEPS GETTING STRONGER EVERY TIME I MEET HIM. I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE I HATE HIM, BUT...

IS THERE ANOTHER REASON ...?

WHAT ...

HAPPENED TO HIM?

OHH ...

I'M... TOO AFRAID TO SAY IT...

EVEN THOUGH IT'S YOU ...

JUAN,

LET'S ...

FIGHT THIS TOGE-THER!

PLEASE DON'T STRUGGLE LIKE THIS ALONE!

I WANT TO STAND BY YOU. PLEASE BELIEVE ME, I'LL DO ANYTHING I CAN...

I ...

DAD,

YOU ...

ARE SO KIND...!

CLANG

WHAT ARE THEY UP TO...

ALRIGHT, I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING...

ABOUT MY AWFUL CRIME.

Haa...

Haaa...

CLANG

Shut!

gtin

creak

He ...

HE HE HE HE HE!

JUAN ...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, BROTHER!

YOUR ESCORT ...

SHOULD WAIT OUT-SIDE.

HEY BRO-THER.

WE'VE GOT SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!

POOR THING, YOU'RE GETTING SOAKED!

YOU CAN COME IN NOW.

I'LL SHOW YOU TO OUR FATHER.

JUAN,

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHAT'S WITH THE FUSS?

I'M JUST FEELING SYMPATHETIC TOWARD YOU.

I KNOW YOUR LIFE WILL BE SHORT.

SYM-PATHE-TIC?

WHEN OUR FATHER'S WISH IS REALIZED,

YOUR SOUL WILL BE EATEN UP BY EVIL SPIRITS.

I'M CLOSE TO TEARS OF CHARITY!

!

HeeHee

A SA-CRIFI-CIAL ...

LAMB

JUAN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

WHAT DID OUR FATHER DO?

FATHER TOLD ME THAT HE'LL BECOME POPE...

WHEN HIS PROMISE IS FULFILLED IN A FEW YEARS.

HE SOLD YOU TO THE EVIL SPIRITS FOR HIS OWN GAIN ...!

Continued in Cantarella Volume 2

Afterword

This story's hero, Cesare Borgia, is based on an actual person in the early Renaissance of Rome, whose name became synonymous with poison. I started learning about him from the book written by Tatsuhiko Shibusawa, and I've been thinking that I wanted to write a story where such a character appeared since I became a writer. When I was thinking of where a good setting would be to write the sequel of "Tenshi no Hitsugi", I suddenly remembered!

So I thought, "All right! Cesare!" I looked him up in several books and became fascinated with his charm again. I couldn't contain my passion for him, and wanted to write a dark historical romance featuring him on my own terms.

It was a rather new venture for me. I'd written historical manga before but they had all be modernized. I'd wondered if I could write it, because there were so many fancy-looking costumes and the Italian Renaissance was an age of rivalries. But I couldn't conquer my own fervor, so I went to Italy to get the material that I couldn't find in Japan.

But Rome had pretty much changed between the age when Cesare had flourished and now. And as for the Vatican, the cathedral wasn't the same image it had been. Many of the works of Michelangelo and Raphael were made after Cesare died, and I couldn't find any books about the Borgia family. I took pictures of the buildings that I thought had existed back then in Rome, and went looking for books containing paintings of Renaissance manors. I decided I had to go to Italy, following Cesare's footsteps, after I had been somewhat redeemed.

But, don't expect a manga like "The History of Italy in Manga Form!". I want to write it daringly, without restraint. I hope that when readers read this, they aren't in pain from the historical story, but rather entranced by the fantasy. That's what I aspire to.

Please fondly watch how Cesare will grow in the future. Thanks to Naoko Nakatsuji, Sei Izumi, Makoto Hondo, Mari Kanuki, Mikiko Iwahashi, Yasuko Wakimuri, and Ryoka Odam for helping me write this work. And thanks to everyone for reading it. I'll be happy to see you again!

2001, February. Yuu Higuri

=> Cantarella Volume 01 / End <=